

Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee (EAQAC)
Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 7:00pm
“Fishbowl” Conference Room
DEP, 255 Rockville Pike, Ste 120

Members present: Foroud Arsanjani, Sean Boyle, Christina England, Jamie Pierce, Linda Tsang, David Kathan, Kavita Vaidyanathan, Reuven Walder

Members absent: Miguel Romero

Guests: William Ellis (Pepco), Stephanie Riddick

Staff: Stan Edwards, Michelle Vigen, Lindsey Shaw

- ☐ Michelle – Add Sean to nominations committee
- ☐ Christina – Redline Radon Bill
- ☐ Jaime/Stan – Radon Info Brochure copy
- ☐ Linda/Foroud – Monitor Clean Power Plan
- ☐ Reuven/David – Follow up with more info on Pepco Energy Coach pilot
- ☐ David/Kavita – Monitor White House Energy Initiative
- ☐ Foroud/Christina – Review Current Legislation
- ☐ Foroud/Christina – Goals and Benchmarks
- ☐ Foroud/Michelle – Thank you letter for Bob, Venu, and Fred
- ☐ Michelle/Foroud – Email Miguel to confirm interest
- ☐ Michelle – Check on nominations/applications

Notes

1. Welcome/Introductions

- 2. Guest Speaker:** William Ellis, Pepco re: Home Energy Score – *William presented on the suite of EmPOWER Maryland utility incentives and shared their interest, exploration thus far, and questions about Home Energy Score. William laid out the process Pepco intends to take to explore incorporating HES as part of QHECs over the next year, including the EmPOWER Maryland Work Groups, and perhaps including in their filing for 2017, which is due Sept 1, 2016. David pointed out that the new White House energy initiative includes providing larger home loans for low-income homes with an improved HES.*

3. Approve Agenda - Approved

4. Approve July Minutes – Approved

The DC PSC merger decision came up in discussion: Michelle reported that the DC PSC denied the merger, which holds the entire process up as all states need to approve. Exelon is expected to appeal, and currently all benefits included in the MD PSC order remain on hold. Benefits in the MD PSC order, for Montgomery County, included funding for an Energy Coach program, a Weatherization program, and seed funding for the Green Bank.

5. Current Items

- a. Air Quality – Radon Legislation** – *Linda summarized that a letter was sent to Council supporting the concept and direction of Chairman Rice’s Radon Bill, but that Christina would be doing a more detailed redline of the bill language. Jaime reported that she reached out to DC and learned about their free Radon Test Kit program and educational resources.*
- b. Energy – Home Energy Score conversation** – *(Staff update) DEP staff has been requesting an EmPOWER Maryland Work Group session on HES and has connected*

with MEA to get a general idea of how the utilities perceive HES. There seems to be general interest and support.

- c. Energy – Energy Coach letter (Reuven)** – *No letter. Pepco is piloting an Energy Coach concept. Nothing else to do at this time on the County side, particularly due to the merger status.*

- d. Energy – DGS update (Foroud)** – *Eric Coffman confirmed for October meeting*

The role of local government in the Clean Power Plan was raised, and Linda reported the status of the new law. Set to be “on the books” (and open for legal action) this fall. Something to follow as there may be new energy efficiency funding opportunities, particularly for low-to-middle income programs.

- e. Energy – White House Solar Initiative (David)** – *David reported the White House energy initiative is composed of three actions of special interest 1) loan guarantees to be administered through green banks (DEP is exploring this), 2) new guidance on residential PACE financing from HUD, and 3) an incentive for HES provided by FHA*

- f. Review of current energy legislation on the books - Chap 3 and 18 (Foroud)** – *Christina and Foroud will follow-up*

- g. 2015 Goals/Benchmarks for Committee Progress (Foroud)** – *Christina and Foroud will follow-up*

6. New Items

- a. Air Quality– Radon Education Brochure (Linda)** – *(Covered above)*

7. Subcommittee Meeting Time (pending time availability) – *(No time available)*

8. Logistics

- a. Nomination of Vice-Chair** – *Sean Boyle volunteered, appointment approved.*
- b. EAQAC Vacancies Update, Nominations Committee** – *With the resignation of Venu, Fred, and Bob, plus 3 vacancies (minus one for David’s renewal), plus a potential resignation by Miguel (have not seen since appointment), there are a total of 6 vacancies. 3 were advertised. DEP has not received applications from the Committees and Boards agency.*
- c. Thank you/Recognition letter from Committee to members (Foroud)** – *Foroud to draft up, Staff will place on letterhead and distribute.*

9. Staff and Member Announcements – *Green Bank Information Session is Sept 16th. All received an invite.*

10. Open Forum/Public Comment

11. Next Meeting: October 7, 2015 at 7pm